

March 2, 2010

Dear Human Services Committee:

Testimony of Peter Courtway, Chief Information Officer, Danbury Hospital In Support of House Bill 5354, "An Act to Provide Incentives for Hospitals to Adopt Electronic Health Records"
Human Services Committee

Danbury Hospital appreciates the opportunity to offer its support for House Bill 5354 which will enable the State of Connecticut to maximize federal resources to promote the integration of electronic health records throughout the health care delivery system. I am fortunate to serve as member of the State's Health Information Technology Task Force. I can personally attest that the Connecticut Department of Public Health and health care delivery system stakeholders at the table are committed to developing a comprehensive plan to make provider/institution access to a health information exchange a reality.

Danbury Hospital is very proud of the commitment it has made over the last decade to build a state-of-the-art platform for the use and exchange of electronic health records. Danbury Hospital has expended over \$2 million to build a system which we believe serves not only the patients in our care, but the health care delivery system as a whole.

State-wide health information exchange is only as good as the information that is shared. Given the substantial financial and human resources we have invested to date, we are keenly aware of the challenges that all health care providers and institutions face. It is in the public's interest that government makes incentives available for hospitals to build and deploy electronic health records platforms for the secure, timely exchange of vital medication information.

I respectfully urge your support for the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Courtway
Chief Information Officer
Danbury Hospital

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